

**INAUGURATION OF THE
COMMONWEALTH 399**

The induction into office of the first President of the Philippines, His Excellency Manuel L. Quezon, and along with him of the first Vice President of the Philippines, Hon. Sergio Osmeña, and the first members of the National Assembly took place in Manila on November 15, 1935. The ceremonies were held in a specially erected stand in front of the magnificent legislative building, and facing the old Walled City. Among the distinguished visitors seated in the center of the stand were Secretary of War George H. Dern, the special envoy of the President of the United States and the fourth Secretary of War to visit the Islands, Vice President John N. Garner, Speaker Joseph W. Byrns, Senator Joseph T. Robinson, the remaining members of the Congressional party, General Douglas MacArthur, Major General Frank McIntyre, Brigadier General Creed F. Cox, former Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison, and William Allen White, Roy Howard, Mark Foote, and other newspaper publishers and correspondents. Delegations from the provinces, and a multitude of other persons were present. Official delegates from foreign countries were not in attendance due to the disinclination of the State Department at Washington to extend invitations. General Emilio Aguinaldo and Bishop Gregorio Aglipay, defeated candidates for the Presidency, were conspicuously absent.

The largest mass assembly ever to gather in Manila at any one time, estimated by the police at a quarter of a million people, crowded the area around the ceremonial stand to view the inauguration and the parade. Millions of other Filipinos

throughout the Islands enthusiastically
celebrated the day.
Radio broadcasts carried the proceedings to the
United States
and the neighboring Asiatic countries.

The program, which had been carefully
planned, was car-
ried out without a hitch. When the high
dignitaries had en-
tered and taken their seats, His Grace, the
Most Reverend